Sky Bus Project

1957. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister has approved "Sky-Bus Project" for Mapusa-Panaji stretch in Goa to be implemented by Konkan Railways on a pilot and experimental basis;

(b) if so, whether financial sanction and administrative approval for its implementation has been granted and what is the anticipated cost per KM; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been laid down for its completion and, if so, by when it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Trials for proving the technology are yet to be conducted. The cost shall be determined after the trials for technology have been proved.

(c) Yes, Sir. As per estimates of Konkan Railway, the project is likely to be completed in a time frame of two years from the date of financial closure and grant of right of way.

Palace on wheels in Karnataka

1958. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the train "Palace on Wheels" in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Railways has conducted a feasibility study;

(c) if so, the gist of the feasibility report; and

(d) by when, will it be introduced in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (d) An MoU has been signed between the Indian Railways and the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) for running of a luxury tourist train in Karnataka.